

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1-11, 14 and 21, all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~message routing mechanism for a~~ collaboration system that supports conversations between ~~participants~~ business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising:

a central collaboration hub hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between ~~participants~~ business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the ~~participants~~ business trading partners;

a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of which the business protocols may be is selected and used by a participants business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at by that ~~participant~~ business trading partner,

wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation, and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator; and

a messaging protocol that allows each ~~participants~~ business trading partners to use their ~~own local~~ business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information, wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator ~~used by the participants~~ that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space, and wherein the routing information is then specified by the ~~participants~~ business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~message routing mechanism~~ system of claim 1 wherein the routing criteria for a message are specified by the message protocol.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~message routing mechanism~~ system of claim 2 wherein the routing criteria is specified in the message overhead.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~message routing mechanism~~ system of claim 3 wherein the collaboration hub includes a repository of ~~participant~~ business trading partner and workflow conversation information which can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message.
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~message routing mechanism~~ system of claim 4 further comprising a message router for routing a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~message routing mechanism~~ system of claim 4 further comprising a message filter for filtering a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository.
7. (Currently Amended) The ~~message routing mechanism~~ system of claim 1 further comprising a messaging bridge for transferring messages from a first collaboration space to a second collaboration space.
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~message routing mechanism~~ system of claim 1 further comprising a messaging gateway for transferring messages from a collaboration space to a business messaging system.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~message routing mechanism~~ system of claim 8 wherein the business messaging system is any of an XML, CSML, Ariba NET or equivalent messaging system.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~message routing mechanism~~ system of claim 1 further comprising a messaging proxy for transferring messages to a messaging device.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for routing messages between participants in a collaboration system involving multiple business protocols , comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of which the business protocols may be is selected and used by a participants business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at by that participant business trading partner,

hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces at a central collaboration hub, capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between ~~participants~~ participants business trading partners, as part of a workflow conversation between the ~~participants~~ participants business trading partners,

wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and

wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation, and may be accessed by the ~~participants~~ participants business trading partners using any of a plurality of business protocols, and

wherein each unique combination of collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator that allows a ~~participant~~ participant business trading partner using a particular business protocol to access a collaboration space using the uniform resource locator associated with that combination; and

sending messages within the collaboration space using a messaging protocol that allows each ~~participants~~ participants business trading partners to use their ~~own~~ local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information, wherein the business

protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator used by the participants that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space, and wherein the routing information is then specified by the participants business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 including specifying the routing criteria for a message by the message protocol.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 including specifying the routing criteria in the message overhead.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 including storing a repository of participant business trading partner and workflow conversation information which can be matched against a message overhead to determine routing for a message.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
routing a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
filtering a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
sending a message via a messaging bridge from a first collaboration space to a second collaboration space.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
sending a message via a messaging gateway from a collaboration space to a business messaging system.

19. (Canceled).
20. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
sending a message via a messaging proxy from a collaboration space to a messaging device.
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~message routing mechanism~~ system of claim 1 including a message router that
routes a message and a message filter that filters a message.
22. (Original) The method of claim 11 including the steps of routing and filtering a message.
23. (Canceled).